



EXHIBIT A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: L. SHAPIRO

Application No.: 09/518,081

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: March 3, 2000

Examiner: Kathleen Kerr

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR
INHIBITING APOPTOSIS USING SERINE
PROTEASE INHIBITORS (AS AMENDED)

Attorney Docket No. 330310.00200

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants in the aforementioned matter petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated April 8, 2004 (Paper No. 23), for three months from June 8, 2004 to August 8, 2004.

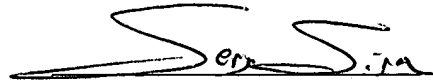
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

AUTHORIZATION

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$475.00 for payment of the extension fee. Applicants believe there is no additional fee due in connection with this filing. However, to the

extent required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serge Sira', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: July 28, 2004